

- I. **Call to Order:** The RDA Board meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. CST on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 with Chairman Don Fesko presiding.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present: Chairman Don Fesko, Harley Snyder, Ed Glover, Jeff Good, Bill Joiner, Tom Dabertin and Randy Palmateer. Seven members were present constituting a quorum.
- III. **General Public Comment:** D. Gardener voiced his concern regarding the economic development projects in the communities stating that the RDA funded projects have produced little or no employment and that the RDA has failed to create jobs. A regional community benefits agreement would ensure that those from disparaged zip codes would increase employment.
- T. Torres voiced her concerns regarding the Marquette Park pavilion stating that the improvements made have not met ADA regulations and standards.
- IV. **Consent Agenda:** B. Joiner motioned to approve the consent agenda with a second by H. Snyder. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
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| a. <u>Minutes of the Board Meeting of July 23, 2013:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| b. <u>MBE/WBE Quarterly Report:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
| c. <u>Budget, Executive's Physical:</u> | <i>Approved</i> |
- V. **Action on Recommendations from Fiscal Task Force:**
- a. **Recommendation:**
- i. **City of East Chicago, Application for Grant Funding:** B. Hanna reported that the application represents Phase 1 of East Chicago's economic development shoreline initiative. It will provide extensive demolition for the North Harbor neighborhood in connections to the marina to help improve the community and offer an environment that will attracts new investments in East Chicago.
- Mayor Anthony Copeland expressed his appreciation to the RDA Board commenting that none of this would be possible without the contribution from the RDA.
- B.Hanna asked for recommendation to approved Phase 1 in the amount of \$17 million.
- B.Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation, with a second by T. Dabertin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.
- ii. **Challenge Grant Award(s), Fall 2013:** B. Hanna addressed the Town of Kout's application for funding for the acquisition and development of a parcel that connects the town to the Dunes Kankakee and American Discovery trails. The parcel is approximately 63 acres located at the intersection of SR 49 and 680 south and will become a park and regional trailhead. The Town of Kouts intends to extend utilities north of the site (sewer and water) as well as sidewalks after Porter County acquires it.
- J. Good motioned to approve the application in the amount of \$200,000, with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

iii. RDA 2013 Financial Audit, selection of firm: D. Fesko stated that the RDA Board has recommended the services of Whittaker and Company for the RDA's 2013 financial audit.

H. Snyder motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by R. Palmateer. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

iv. RDA Grant Audits, selection of firm: D. Fesko stated that the Board has selected Krnich and Associates to perform audits on all RDA projects.

D. Fesko made a recommendation to have Krnich and Associates perform the grantee audits beginning December 2013.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the recommendation, with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

v. Barnes & Thornburg, contract/scope: D. Fesko addressed that Barnes & Thornburg was retained by the RDA to draft the RPP for the medical center and trauma system study that was part of SB 585.

D. Fesko asked for recommendation to expand Barnes & Thornburg's contract to help score and award a consulting contract for the project. The money is being reimbursed to the RDA from the State of Indiana as part of SB 585.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the recommendation with a second by J. Good. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

vi. 2014 Administrative Budget: B. Hanna made a recommendation to approve the RDA's 2014 administrative budget.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the 2014 administrative budget, with a second by T. Dabertin. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

a. Ratification:

i. Budget, Communications increase: B. Hanna asked for a minor increase in the communications budget in the amount of \$42,000.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the amendment, with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

ii. Budget; Professional Development increase: B. Hanna asked for an increase for professional development.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the amendment, with a second by E. Glover. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

iii. Deal Closing, Tec Air: B. Hanna asked for recommendation to approve an increase in Tec Air's deal closing amount to \$2.4 million.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the amendment, with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- iv. **Deal Closing, Canadian National:** B. Hanna requested a reduction in the grant amount to CN for its expansion of the Kirk Yard in Gary. The funding amount was originally \$4 million and the recommendation is to reduce the amount to \$1.8 million.

R. Palmateer motioned to approve the amendment, with a second by B. Joiner. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- v. **Grants, MPLE Grant Amendment:** B. Hanna requested approval of a \$100,000 extension for the Marquette Park Lakefront East grant.

B. Joiner motioned to approve the amendment, with a second by R. Palmateer. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

VI. **Project Status Review:**

b. **Surface Transportation:**

- i. **Update:** None

c. **Shoreline Redevelopment:**

- i. **Update:** K. Luther gave a report, updating the Marquette Plan updates and the Lake Michigan Coastal grant program.

d. **Expansion of the Gary Airport:**

- i. **Update:** BR Lane gave an update on the Airport stating that the FAA, IDEM, RDA and the Compact in Chicago lacked communication and that she is trying to bring all the parties to the table in order to get the project done quickly. BR also stated that the airport remains within scope and budget to commission the runway by September 2014. To date the airport runway expansion is 75% complete.

e. **Economic Development:**

- i. **Update:** B. Hanna gave an update on all RDA projects to date. The economic impact overall is \$5.21 for every dollar that is brought in. By 2025 the RDA will have supported approximately 4,000 jobs.

f. **RDA Operations:**

- i. **Update:** None

VII. **Unfinished Business:**

- ii. **Update:** None

VIII. **New Business:**

- iii. **Other:** None

- IX. **2013 Future Meeting Planning:** The quarterly Board structure and the monthly Working Groups are reflected in the planning calendar.

X. General Public Comment:

J. Nowacki voiced his concerns regarding the runway expansion at the airport and Marquette Park.

C. Krady voiced her concerns regarding the renovations at Marquette Park and the lack of workers from the community working on the project.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Jakubin